

BROOKLYN GAS COMPANY SURRENDERS IN FIRST SKIRMISH OF THE PEOPLE'S FIGHT

Won't Try to Collect at \$1 Rate Pending Contest Over New Law—Citizens Respond to Evening World's Call to Organize.

IF YOUR METER IS CUT OFF NOTIFY EVENING WORLD.

If a collector for the gas company refuses to accept your legal tender of the amount due for gas consumed for any portion of the month of May at the rate of 80 cents a thousand feet and THREATENS TO HAVE YOUR METER LOCKED communicate at once with The Evening World. PAY NO ATTENTION TO copies of injunctions, court orders, restraining orders or other alleged legal documents carried by gas company employees. The injunction issued by Judge Lacombe in the United States Court DOES NOT APPLY TO CONSUMERS.

The first victory of the Gas Consumers' League has been scored. The Brooklyn Union Gas Company has decided that it will not seek to collect for gas consumed at the dollar rate, but will abide by the law passed by the Legislature fixing the price of gas at 80 cents per thousand feet.

The Brooklyn Union Gas Company is as vitally interested in the maintenance of the dollar rate as is the Consolidated on this side of the river, but the management has evidently decided that the law will be upheld.

Gas bills in Brooklyn—except in the sections of that borough exempted by the eighty-cent gas bill—will be collected for the month of May at the rate of 80 cents per thousand feet. On the back of each bill will appear a stipulation that in case the United States Supreme Court holds the 80-cent bill unconstitutional consumers will be expected to pay the additional 20 per cent. Automatic gas meters—the quarter-in-the-slot kind—have been regulated to burn gas at the eighty-cent rate, but the company will attach to each meter a notice that the change has been made under protest and that the consumer will be expected to pay the excess if the dollar rate is upheld.

Gen. James Jourdan, president of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, appears to be gifted with more foresight than the Manhattan gas barons possess. He anticipated the fight the Gas Consumers' League intends to make, and took the stand that a law is a law until it is repealed. This is the decent stand to take, and Brooklyn consumers should have no hesitation in agreeing to pay the twenty cents extra if the law should be declared unconstitutional. They will not be taking much of a chance of losing.

Blow to the Trust.

On the best of information it may be said that the news of the formation of the Gas Consumers' League was a sad blow to the Gas Trust bluffers. Although attorneys for the Trust are claiming to be fighting against the confiscation of their property, it is doubtful if the companies composing the gas combination have any franchise rights. This is a question for court review and a decision will be sought by the Gas Consumers' League.

It was the intention of the Gas Trust to keep the people out of the fight in the United States courts. The lawyers knew full well that no individual consumer would have the nerve to risk the vengeance of the Trust. They did not look for a combination, and the fact that a big one is forming to bring to light every phase of the gas question landed in the gas headquarters like a bolt out of a clear sky.

Senator Elsborg, who has been at the front of all the big fights for the rights of the people of New York since he went to the State Senate, was one of the first to indorse the Gas Consumers' League movement.

He recalled the services The Evening World has already performed for the people in the direction of protecting them from oppression by the Gas Trust and gave as his opinion that this newspaper is the best medium through which an organization of consumers can be effected.

Although the injunction issued by Judge Lacombe is against the State authorities, the Gas Trust has arranged to furnish each of its collectors with a copy of the restraining order when it starts out to collect the bills for gas consumed in May. The object of this is to try and bluff consumers into the belief that the injunction applies to them. This is a characteristic piece of bluff. Don't blame the collector for trying to make you think that things are not as they are. He is earning his salary under orders from his superiors.

FLOMERFELT JURY FAILS TO AGREE.

SOMERVILLE, N. J., May 23.—After being out twenty-four hours, the jury which had been trying Jacob Flomerfelt for the murder of his brother-in-law, Frank Grammer, returned to court today and announced that they had been unable to agree on a verdict. Justice Garretson asked if there was anything they would like to know from him that would aid them in reaching a verdict, but the foreman replied that the last ballot taken was eight to four for conviction, and he believed that no agreement could be reached. Justice Garretson then discharged them.

At the former trial of Flomerfelt the jury also disagreed. At that it was said they stood ten to two for conviction.

Look Into the Home Question

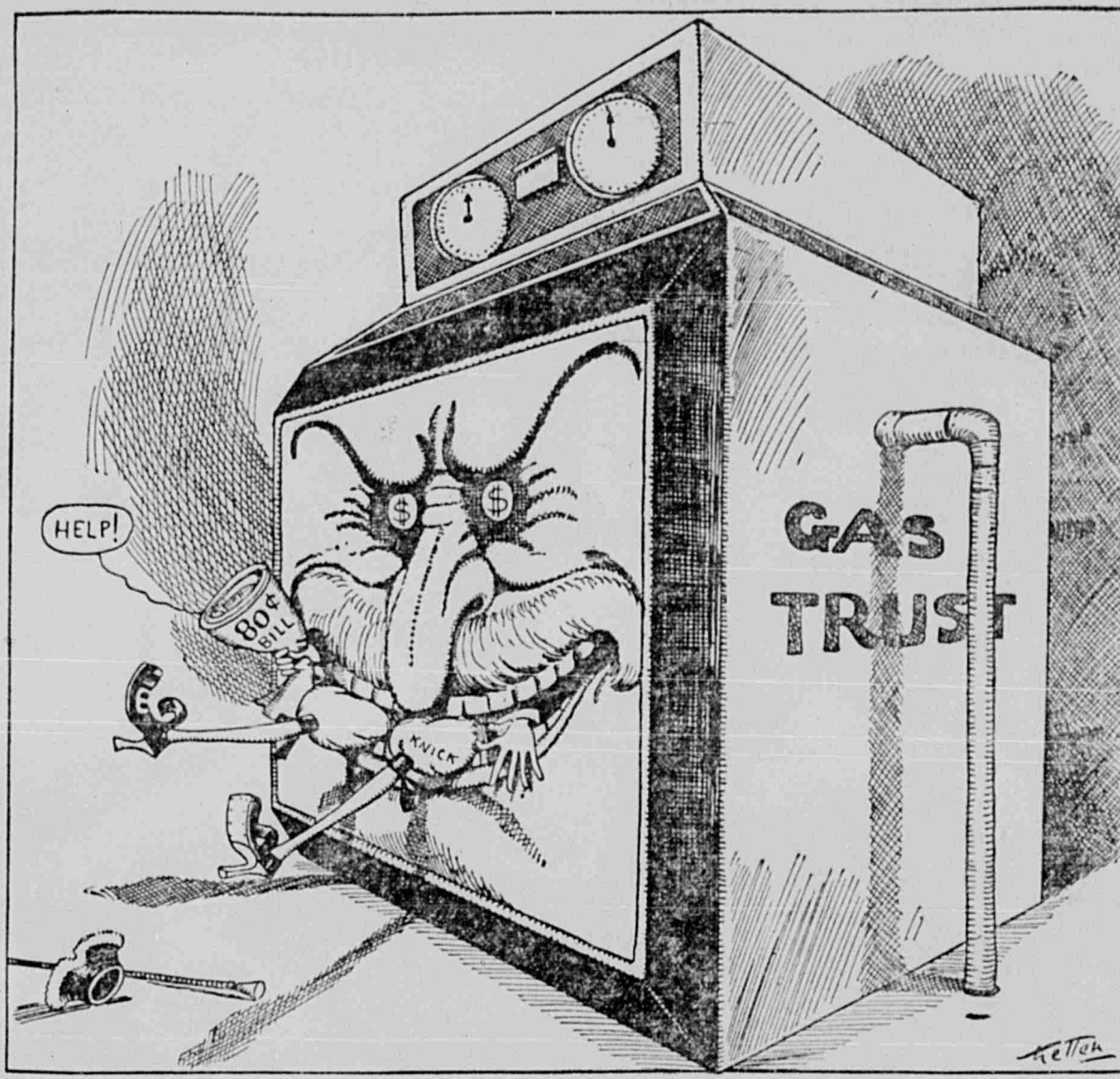
Many people leave things undone that ought to be done, and the consequence is that they go on living in the same old rut of remorse and longing for relief that positively will not come of its own accord.

Your too-small house will not grow larger; the rent will not be decreased; the sun will not make it any brighter than in the past, and the air about you will become no purer.

On the "bargain" and "cash" plan West advertisers offer daily HOMES TO SUIT!

GET TOGETHER! KNICK NEEDS HELP!

By Maurice Ketten.



GREAT RUSH TO JOIN GAS CONSUMERS' LEAGUE

Swarm of Applications from Citizens Eager to Be Enrolled in Organization to Repel Trust's Attack on Law.

In many letters of application for membership in the Gas Consumers' League, the writers, fearful of persecution from the Gas Trust, have requested that their names be not published. Such requests will be respected. Any consumer of gas is eligible to membership in the Gas Consumers' League—there is no initiation, and neither dues nor assessments. Send in your protest against the greed of the Gas Trust.

Here are some early members of the Gas Consumers' League:

B. Byrne, Michael G., No. 745 Tenth avenue.
Berkas, William, 409 West Thirtieth street.
Burns, R., No. 221 Amsterdam avenue.
Buhari, Mrs. Mary A., No. 321 East Thirtieth street.
Brown, Henry, 301 East One Hundred and Fourteenth street.
Bushman, Charles E., No. 134 Edgewood avenue.
Brunkner, William, No. 359 Tinton avenue.
Boume, Philip, No. 1159 Jefferson avenue.
Burk, J. A., No. 4 West One Hundred and Thirtieth street.
Bergmann, Joseph, No. 24 West One Hundred and Thirtieth street.
Christensen, S. C., No. 121 Leroy street.
Clark, Thomas J., No. 1301 Fulton street, Brooklyn.
Carr, Dr. A., No. 122 East Eighty-fifth street.

D. Delkart, Philip, No. 240 West Broadway.
Dante, George, No. 246 West Thirtieth street.
Doran, A. L., No. 13 East Forty-third street.
Dover, L., No. 277 Reid avenue, Brooklyn.
Deutch, Charles, No. 539 East Eighty-seventh street.

E. Eddy, George B., No. 57 West Tenth street.
Epps, Timothy Parsons, No. 216 West Sixty-ninth street.
Eppier, Solomon, No. 987 Columbus avenue.
Einstein, Samuel, No. 137 Monroe street.
Feigel, Louis, No. 300 East Seventy-first street.
Frank, Samuel, No. 207 Second avenue.
Finsie, A. H., No. 308 East Thirtieth street.

F. Flynn, Edward, No. 103 West Sixty-sixth street.
Forman, Mary, No. 214 West Fifteenth street.
Goldberg, Mayer, No. 300 Grand street.
Guntensborger, Fritz, No. 127 Reade street.
Grad, William, No. 239 Seventh avenue.
Griswold, James M., No. 110 East One Hundred and Eighteenth street.
Gugel, Andrew, No. 28 Clay street.
Goodman, Samuel M., No. 54 East Ninety-eighth street.
Grant, William, No. 530 West Forty-seventh street.
Greenberg, M., No. 53 Borden avenue, Queens.
Greathall, James, No. 49 Leroy street.

G. Gramath, L., No. 231 Hudson street.
Hess, Frederick, No. 600 East One Hundred and Eighty-third street.
Harris, Lena, No. 129 Norfolk street.
Hamilton, B. H., No. 351 East Fifty-fourth street.
Hollander, S., No. 239 Tenth avenue.
Hilzer, M., No. 239 Tenth avenue.
Ingling, A. B., No. 233 West One Hundred and Thirtieth street.

J. Jacoby & Co., No. 79 Tenth avenue.
Kip, Frank C., No. 214 Washington avenue, Brooklyn.
Kuhn, Nicholas, No. 420 West Forty-ninth street.
Kannopky, Henry E., No. 276 Broadway.
Kreilberg, Louis, No. 129 East Broadway.
Kronthal, Louis, No. 142 West One Hundred and Twelfth street.
Ludwig, William, No. 579 Broadway, Brooklyn.
Levon, David, No. 239 East Eighth street.
Lipson, Abram, No. 55 Morningside avenue.
Lempe, Mrs. A. M., No. 110 West One Hundred and Forty-third street.

M. Mathes, George, No. 304 Sixth street, Brooklyn.
Mende, Rudolph, No. 234 Rent avenue, Brooklyn.
Mayne, James, No. 223 East Twenty-eighth street.
Miller, Adolph, No. 135 East Ninety-fifth street.
Maloney, James, No. 533 West Eighty-seventh street.
Maas & Alsky, No. 485 Grand street.
Meyer, Thomas J., No. 748 East One Hundred and Thirtieth street.
Mellon, Patrick, No. 542 East One Hundred and Eighty-second street.
McArdle, James, No. 150 Bradhurst avenue.

N. Neher, Jr., George, No. 328 West Thirtieth street.
O. Oberg, Olof, No. 1573 Fulton avenue, Bronx.
P. Polonsky, Samuel, No. 240 East Tenth street.
Patella, Benjamin, No. 1 Perry street.
Pelman, Dr. Max, No. 265 Henry street.
Price, C. H., No. 327 Forty-sixth street, Brooklyn.
Pollock, L., No. 234 Grand street, Brooklyn.

R. Rendall, Mrs. Maud, No. 219 Hughes avenue.
Rosenblum, M., No. 239 ReM avenue.
Rosenzweig, David, No. 332 Grand street.
Reilly, Charles P., No. 711 East One Hundred and Forty-eighth street.

S. Schaper, Morris, No. 344 Third avenue.
Sweetbaum, M., No. 204 East Eighty-third street.
Sontz, Joseph, No. 34 Cook street, Brooklyn.
Solomon, Charles, No. 478a Decatur street, Brooklyn.
Schofer, J. A., No. 40 Butler street, Brooklyn.
Smith, J. E., No. 116 West One Hundred and Fourteenth street.
Saulers, Harry, No. 137 Allen street.
Schaub, F. W., No. 857 Third avenue.
Shookoff, M., No. 14 Reid avenue, Brooklyn.
Swallow, Joseph, No. 303 West Ninety-second street.
Stuck, No. 405 Willis avenue.
Silverman, Samuel, No. 33 Cannon street.

T. Thompson, William, No. 183 West One Hundred and Second street.
Verheul, J. J., No. 754 East One Hundred and Fiftieth street.

W. Winkler, C., No. 123 West One Hundred and Sixteenth street.
Wendro, Abraham, No. 106 Lewis street.

Y. Yankovsky, Morris, No. 206 Fulton street, Brooklyn.

GAS CONSUMERS, YOUR RIGHTS ARE HERE DEFINED BY JUDGE.

Justice Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, in an opinion in the case of Smith vs. Ames, handed down on May 7, 1898, said:

"The utmost that any corporation can rightfully demand at the hands of the Legislature when exerting its general power is that it receive what, under all circumstances, is SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE USE OF ITS PROPERTY AS WILL BE JUST BOTH TO IT AND THE PUBLIC. THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC ARE NOT TO BE IGNORED."

"THE PUBLIC CANNOT PROPERLY BE SUBJECTED TO UNREASONABLE RATES IN ORDER SIMPLY THAT STOCKHOLDERS MAY EARN DIVIDENDS. IF A CORPORATION CANNOT EARN DIVIDENDS FOR ITS STOCKHOLDERS IT IS A MISFORTUNE FOR IT AND THEM WHICH THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT REQUIRE TO BE REMEDIED BY IMPOSING UNJUST BURDENS UPON THE PUBLIC."

SENATOR ELSBERG HEARTILY INDORSES 80-CENT GAS FIGHT.

State Senator Nathaniel S. Elsborg, who believes in cheap gas, worked and voted for the 80-cent gas law, and who is a charter member of the Gas Consumers' League, said today:

"The agitation in The Evening World having as its object the assertion and protection of the gas consumers' rights in the proceedings now pending in the courts, is worthy of the highest commendation. This movement is what might be expected of a newspaper that is always vigilant in the protection of the public rights, and that did so much to help the enactment of the 80-cent gas law."

"As I understand the purpose of the Gas Consumers' League, it is to unite the consumers so that they will be represented when the gas companies bring the matter up for final adjudication. This should certainly be approved by every one, as it should surely result in placing before the courts all the facts of the case and the situation which caused the enactment of the law. I again congratulate The Evening World upon what it is doing."

NEARLY ALL LEADERS AT MURPHY FUNERAL.

The largest funeral ever held in the Twentieth Assembly District was that of Thomas Murphy, late Tammany leader of the district and Deputy Clerk of the City of New York, who died last Sunday. More than one hundred carriages conveyed the friends and relatives of the family from the residence, No. 243 East Thirtieth street, to St. Stephen's Church, Twenty-eighth street and Third avenue, where a solemn requiem mass was held.

Father John J. O'Connor celebrated the mass, assisted by Father John Fay, Rev. Thomas A. Thornton and Father John J. Chadwick, former chaplain of the battleship Maine.

The pallbearers were Charles F. Murphy, Peter Seery, John T. Birmahman, John J. O'Neil, James P. Keating, George F. Soanell, William J. Boylan, Cornelius F. Collins and Thomas R. R. R.

Nearly every Tammany district leader was in attendance, as were also the following associations, the members of which marched with the funeral procession: Tammany Central Association, about 700 strong; the 14th and 15th wards of the City of New York; the Tammany General Committee, Castilian Council, Knights of Columbus, members of the I. O. O. F., Association and seventy-five boys of St. Joseph's Society of St. Gabriel, of which Mr. Murphy was one of the benefactors.

It required three coaches to carry the handsome floral tributes. The interment was in Calvary Cemetery.



Senator NATHANIEL ELSBERG.

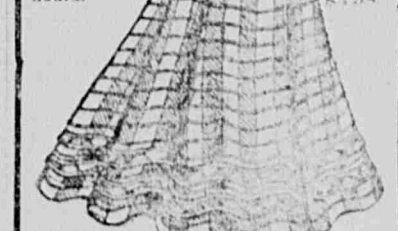
Newest Modes in Skirts Made to Your Order.

Now is the time and this the place to get your new Spring and Summer skirt. Don't fall to put this house on your shopping list and don't be mislead by cheap imitations who try to raise our prices—for it's only the orders they can copy.

We are manufacturers, and our prices are less than half those asked at retail stores.

This price includes all materials, making, fitting and finishing. Your order filled in 48 hours.

Made to your order \$3.98



You can choose from our large assortment of fabrics: Mohair, Broadcloths, Cheviots, Worsteeds, New Sliver Grays, Plaid Shadow Checks, etc.

Don't let our low prices scare you away for you will save to pay upwards of \$10 for each skirt elsewhere.

WE FILL ORDERS BY MAIL.

SKIRT TAILORING CO., 42 E. 9th St., N. Y. Just W. of Broadway. FEW LOOTS FROM WASHINGTON. TELEPHONE 3212—GRAMERCY.

No Extra Charge for It. Advertisements for The World may be left at any American Express, Messenger Office or the city until 9 P. M.

HUGHES DOUBTS RIGHT OF TRUST TO FRANCHISES

Investigator Defines the Property Rights of Consolidated Gas Co.

The Gas Trust claims that the 80-cent gas law is an unconstitutional interference with its "property rights" which the Federal courts can restrain. Hence the temporary injunctions against the officers of the State of New York from carrying out the penalties of the statute and itself from accepting the legal rate of 80 cents a thousand cubic feet.

Are there property rights? If franchises, what are the franchises, and when do they expire? Just what are these "property rights" which the Gas Trust has capitalized for \$10,000,000 against the public?

Charles E. Hughes, the peerless prober of corporate interests and counsel of the Gas Industry Committee, here gives a searchlight upon these "property rights."

Hughes Doubts "Rights." "It is doubtful whether the Consolidated Gas Company has any extensive rights in the city of New York. It appears that no franchises other than the right to be a corporation has been granted to the Consolidated Gas Company, and it would seem that several of the grants to the constituent companies have expired or will soon expire."

The grant to the New York Gas Light Company was made May 12, 1826, for thirty years. The grant to the Manhattan Gas Light Company was made Dec. 22, 1836, for thirty years. The grant to the Manhattan Gas Light Company under ordinance of Dec. 22, 1836, apparently was expired in 1867. The grant to the Manhattan Gas Light Company under ordinance of Dec. 22, 1836, apparently was expired in 1867. The grant to the Manhattan Gas Light Company under ordinance of Dec. 22, 1836, apparently was expired in 1867.

The city, however, reserved the right to purchase at any time from the said company all the materials, pipes, fixtures, buildings and all singular all the personal property owned by said company by paying to said company the value thereof as determined by a board of assessors and above said value.

No evidence has been furnished of any other franchise granted to any other constituent company or obtained by the Consolidated Gas Company.

Brooklyn Grants Limited. "The Brooklyn Union Gas Company claims the right to lay and maintain mains in streets under grants made to the original companies. Many of these grants have expired and the rights are now in the hands of the city. Although the transfers made by the companies to the Brooklyn Union Gas Company in 1884 purported to convey all their franchises and rights, and these were made in terms assignable."

It is a serious question to what extent the Brooklyn Union Gas Company is lawfully exercising rights in the streets of the borough. It is evident that the matter should at an early date be made a subject of judicial inquiry upon proper action taken by the courts.

Sale of Parasols. Linons, Pongees, all the desirable shades of Taffeta, plain and floral effects, also black and white; handles of natural wood and enamel, \$1.95 & \$2.95, value \$3.00 & \$4.00.

Lord & Taylor. Broadway and Twentieth Street; Fifth Avenue; Nineteenth Street.

Chocolate Sponge. You bite through a crust of chocolate into a crumbling morsel of golden molasses candy, and the two combine to make a delicious mouthful of melting sweetness unmatched by any other form of confection. It must be "Greenfield's," though—the name is on every piece.

For Sale Everywhere. E. GREENFIELD'S SON & CO. 44 Barclay St., New York.

THE GAS CONSUMERS' LEAGUE.

If you want to join the Gas Consumers' League fill out the blank below and mail it to THE GAS CONSUMERS' LEAGUE, Room 201, Pulitzer Building, New York.

To the Editor of The Evening World: I desire to enroll myself as a member of the Gas Consumers' League for the purpose of fighting the attempt of the Gas Trust to force me to pay \$1 per thousand feet when the law makes the price 80 cents.

Name.....
Address.....
Name of company furnishing gas.....

SAYS SNAKE CHARMER FASCINATED HUSBAND.

Wife of Capt. O. K. White, Famous Circus Man, Doesn't Know Her Name, but Wants a Divorce.

Besides conquering poisonous reptiles of the jungle with her fascinating smiles, Mrs. Nellie White says a snake-charmer charmed her husband, Capt. Octavius K. White, of the Ringling Brothers' tent show, now in the West, and Moses Strassman applied to Justice Greenbaum to-day for an absolute divorce in behalf of Mrs. White.

Capt. "O. K." White has been known for half a century in the circus business. He took Barnum's "What is It?" Zep and his sister Hatty, when the greatest showman of history died, and Zip is still with him. The Captain, in June, 1874, married Nellie, who was not a show woman. They have been separated many years. Last November, she asserts, she discovered that he was living at No. 128 West Eighty-third street with a woman who charmed snakes in the Ringling side show. She has been unable to find out the snake charmer's name, but the Captain's brother, who lives at No. 23 West Eighth street, who served the divorce papers on him, told her the name and obtained her photograph.

Deaf Mute Kills a Physician. JACKSON, Miss., May 23.—Dr. Charles Collins, of Hazelhurst, was shot and instantly killed in front of the Union Depot by Charles Carraway, a deaf mute of Crystal Springs. Carraway is in jail and asserts self-defense.

CHINAMAN'S HORSE RUNS AWAY ON BRIDGE.

Causes a Collision in Which Three Men Were Injured and Scatter Pigs' Feet.

An uncontrollable horse, driven by a Chinaman, was this afternoon the cause of a collision and runaway on the Brooklyn Bridge between his vehicle and an express wagon in charge of F. Vaughn and Patrick Britt, of No. 237 East Seventy-sixth street. All three men received injuries, the Chinaman being taken to a Brooklyn hospital.

Policeman Raymond, of the Washington street station, saw the Chinaman's horse coming and stopped the runaway by closing the gate. The celestia's vehicle was filled with pigs' feet, which were scattered over the bridge. The police couldn't understand the name he gave, although they learned enough to know his horse threw his vehicle in the way of the express wagon.

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Stern Brothers

Imported Flowers and Feathers

A Choice and Varied Selection Suitable for Summer Hats.

Exceptional Values, To-morrow

OSTRICH PLUMES, 14 inches long, in white, black and colors, at \$1.95
IMPORTED SNOW BALLS AND HYDRANGEAS, Value 85c to \$1.25, 69c
ROSES WITH FOLIAGE, Bunch of 3, Value 50c, 38c

Special Sale of Cotton and Linen Sheets and Pillow Cases

Cotton Sheets, Single Bed Size, 47c and 55c Each
Three Quarter Bed Size, 62c " 70c "
Double Bed Size, 78c " 85c "

Cotton Pillow Cases, 22½x36 ins., 14c 25x36, 15c 27x36, 16c
ALSO A COMPLETE LINE OF HEMSTITCHED SHEETS AND PILLOW CASES AT REDUCED PRICES.

Linen Sheets, Single Bed Size, \$3.45 and 4.50 Pair
Double Bed Size, 4.25 " 5.50 "

Linen Pillow Cases, 22½x36 inches, 1.15 " 1.50 "

Men's Summer Neckwear

Much Below Regular Prices. FOUR-IN-HAND SCARFS, of Silk Grenadines, Silk and Linen Mixtures, in Light, Dark and Medium Effects, Value \$1.00, 50c

Silk Crepe Cravats—Our Exclusive Importation in Plain and Ombre Effects, an unusually large variety of colorings, Four-in-Hands, \$1.00 Folded Squares, \$1.45

An Extraordinary Offering of Boys' & Young Men's Suits Alterations Made Free.

Single and Double Breasted Suits, of Serges, Worsteeds and Cheviots, 30 to 38 chest measure, 15 to 22 yrs., Value \$14.75 and 16.45, \$9.50
Of Fine Fabrics, especially high grade light weight Worsteeds, Value \$17.50 & 22.50, \$10.50, 13.90
Norfolk, Sailor and Russian Suits, \$3.50, 5.00, 7.45, Were \$5.00 to 14.75
Washable Sailor and Russian Suits, of Galateas, Linens and Chambrays, in stripes and plain colors, Usually \$2.50 to 4.50, \$1.95, 2.25

West Twenty-third Street